

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A personal care absorbent article comprising:

a porous nonwoven web material treated with a soluble fluid treatment agent suitable for altering red blood cells on contact with a red blood cell-containing fluid, said porous nonwoven web material having an average pore size in a range of about 10 microns to about 200 microns, wherein said agent comprises a tri-block copolymer comprising polypropylene oxide and polyethylene oxide.

Claims 2-3 (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A personal care absorbent article in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said agent [[is]] further comprises a polycationic material.

5. (Currently Amended) A personal care absorbent article in accordance with Claim 4, wherein said polycationic material [[is]] comprises a polycationic surfactant linear polymer.

6. (Currently Amended) A personal care absorbent article in accordance with Claim 4, wherein said polycationic material [[is]] comprises polylysine.

7. (Currently Amended) A personal care absorbent article in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said fluid treatment agent [[is]] further comprises an antibody.

8. (Currently Amended) A personal care absorbent article in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said fluid treatment agent ~~[[is]]~~ further comprises a saponin.

Claim 9 (Canceled)

10. (Original) A personal care absorbent article in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said porous nonwoven web material comprises a porosity gradient with pore size increasing from one side of said porous nonwoven web material to an opposite side of said porous nonwoven web material.

11. (Original) A personal care absorbent article in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said porous nonwoven web material is a nonwoven material selected from the group consisting of spunbond, meltblown, airlaid, and bonded carded.

12. (Currently Amended) A personal care absorbent article in accordance with Claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, wherein said fluid treatment agent comprises a solution comprising greater than about 1% by weight of said tri-block copolymer.

13. (Original) A personal care absorbent article in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising at least one superabsorbent dispersed throughout said nonwoven web material.

14. (Currently Amended) A personal care absorbent article in accordance with Claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein said ~~lysing~~ fluid treatment agent ~~[[is]]~~ further comprises an alkoxylated alcohol.

15. (Currently Amended) A personal care absorbent article in accordance with Claim [[2]] 1, wherein said ~~lysing~~ fluid treatment agent ~~[[is]]~~ further comprises an octylpolyglycoside.

16. (Currently Amended) An absorbent material comprising:
a backing material which is substantially fluid impervious;
a cover material comprising a fluid permeable polymeric film; and
an absorbent core disposed between said cover material and said backing material, said absorbent core comprising a porous nonwoven web material treated with a soluble fluid treatment agent comprising a tri-block copolymer comprising polypropylene oxide and polyethylene oxide whereby red blood cells contacting said agent are one of agglomerated and lysed.

Claim 17 (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) An absorbent material in accordance with Claim 16, wherein said fluid treatment agent ~~[[is]]~~ further comprises a polycationic material.

19. (Currently Amended) An absorbent material in accordance with Claim 16, wherein said fluid treatment agent ~~[[is]]~~ further comprises an antibody.

20. (Original) An absorbent material in accordance with Claim 16, wherein at least one superabsorbent is disposed within said absorbent core.

21. (Original) An absorbent material in accordance with Claim 16, wherein said porous nonwoven web material comprises a gradient of pore sizes with pore sizes decreasing in a direction of said backing material.

22. (Currently Amended) An absorbent material in accordance with Claim 16, wherein said porous nonwoven web material ~~[[is]]~~ comprises a nonwoven material selected from the group consisting of spunbond, meltblown, airlaid, and bonded carded.

23. (Currently Amended) An absorbent material in accordance with Claim ~~[[17]]~~ 16, wherein said fluid treatment agent comprises a solution comprising at least 1% by weight of said tri-block copolymer.

24. (Currently Amended) An absorbent material for absorption of a red blood cell containing viscoelastic fluid comprising:

a porous synthetic substrate having a soluble fluid treatment agent comprising a tri-block copolymer comprising polypropylene oxide and polyethylene oxide disposed for contact by said viscoelastic fluid, whereby said red blood cells are one of agglomerated and lysed upon contact with said fluid treatment agent.

25. (Currently Amended) An absorbent material in accordance with Claim 24, wherein said synthetic substrate ~~[[is]]~~ comprises a nonwoven material.

26. (Original) An absorbent material in accordance with Claim 25, wherein said nonwoven material is selected from the group consisting of spunbond, meltblown, airlaid and bonded carded.

Claim 27 (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) An absorbent material in accordance with Claim 24, wherein said fluid treatment agent ~~[[is]]~~ comprises a polycationic compound.

29. (Currently Amended) An absorbent material in accordance with Claim 24, wherein said fluid treatment agent ~~[[is]]~~ comprises an antibody.

30. (Currently Amended) An absorbent material in accordance with Claim 24, wherein said viscoelastic fluid ~~[[is]]~~ comprises menses.

31. (Currently Amended) An absorbent material in accordance with Claim 24, wherein said viscoelastic fluid ~~[[is]]~~ comprises at least one of blood and wound exudate.

32. (Currently Amended) In a personal care absorbent article having a substantially fluid impervious backing material, a fluid permeable cover material, an absorbent core disposed between said cover material and said backing material, and a superabsorbent disposed within said absorbent core, the improvement comprising:

said absorbent core comprising a porous nonwoven web material treated with a fluid treatment agent ~~cell-means~~ for altering red blood cells of a red blood cell-containing fluid upon contact with said absorbent core whereby said red blood cells are precluded from reducing a fluid uptake rate of said superabsorbent, said fluid treatment agent comprising a red blood cell agglomerating agent which comprises a surfactant selected from the group consisting of tri-block copolymers of polyethylene oxide and polypropylene oxide, and polycationic linear polymers.

Claim 33 (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) A personal care absorbent article in accordance with Claim 32, wherein said ~~absorbent core comprises a porous nonwoven web material and said cell-means~~ fluid treatment agent further comprises a red blood cell lysing agent disposed on said porous nonwoven web material.

35. (Currently Amended) A personal care absorbent article in accordance with Claim ~~[[33]]~~ 32, wherein said red blood cell agglomerating agent ~~[[is]]~~ further comprises an antibody.

Claim 36 (Canceled)

37. (Currently Amended) A personal care absorbent article in accordance with Claim 34, wherein said red blood cell lysing agent [[is]] comprises a saponin.

38. (Currently Amended) A personal care absorbent article in accordance with Claim [[33]] 32, wherein the pores of said porous nonwoven web material have an average pore size in a range of about 10 microns to about 200 microns.

39. (Currently Amended) A catamenial device comprising:
a backing material which is substantially fluid impervious;
a cover material comprising a fluid permeable polymeric film; and
an absorbent core disposed between said cover material and said backing material, said absorbent core comprising a porous nonwoven web material treated with a soluble fluid treatment agent comprising a tri-block copolymer comprising polypropylene oxide and polyethylene oxide whereby red blood cells contacting said agent are one of agglomerated and lysed.

40. (Currently Amended) A material for absorption of a red blood-cell containing fluid comprising:
an absorbent material treated with a soluble fluid treatment agent suitable for altering red blood cells on contact with said red blood cell-containing fluid, said soluble fluid treatment agent comprising a tri-block copolymer comprising polypropylene oxide and polyethylene oxide.

41. (Currently Amended) A material in accordance with Claim 40, wherein said absorbent material [[is]] comprises a nonwoven web material.

42. (Currently Amended) A material in accordance with Claim 40, wherein said absorbent material comprises a woven material.

43. (Currently Amended) A material in accordance with Claim 40, wherein said fluid treatment agent comprises at least one of a red blood cell agglomerating agent and a red blood cell lysing agent.

Claim 44 (Canceled)

45. (Currently Amended) A material in accordance with Claim 40, wherein said agent further comprises a polycationic material.

46. (Currently Amended) A material in accordance with Claim 45, wherein said polycationic material comprises a polycationic surfactant linear polymer.

47. (Currently Amended) A material in accordance with Claim 45, wherein said polycationic material comprises polylysine.

48. (Currently Amended) A material in accordance with Claim 40, wherein said fluid treatment agent further comprises an antibody.

49. (Currently Amended) A material in accordance with Claim 40, wherein said fluid treatment agent further comprises a saponin.

50. (Original) A material in accordance with Claim 40 further comprising at least one superabsorbent disposed within said absorbent material.

51. (Currently Amended) A material in accordance with Claim 43, wherein said lysing agent comprises an alkoxylated alcohol.

52. (Currently Amended) A material in accordance with Claim 43, wherein said lysing agent [[is]] comprises an octylpolyglycoside.

53. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing comprising:
an absorbent material treated with a soluble fluid treatment agent suitable for altering red blood cells on contact with said red blood cell-containing fluid, said soluble fluid treatment agent comprising a tri-block copolymer comprising polypropylene oxide and polyethylene oxide.

54. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing in accordance with Claim 53, wherein said fluid treating agent [[is]] comprises at least one of a red blood cell agglomerating agent and a red blood cell lysing agent.